

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DRC-01

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R 111255Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6700

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10606

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IN, US

SUBJ: NORTHEAST INDIA: NO EVIDENCE OF CIA ACTIVITIES

SAYS B.K. NEHRU

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY,
MADRAS FROM CALCUTTA 10 SEPT '73 REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 1662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IN, US

SUBJ: NORTHEAST INDIA: NO EVIDENCE OF CIA ACTIVITIES

SAYS B. K. NEHRU

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1. RETIRING GOVERNOR OF ASSAM, MEGHALAYA, NAGALAND, MANIPUR

AND TRIPURA, B. K. NEHRU, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE FRIDAY, SEPT. 7 IN CALCUTTA. HE SAID THE SEPARATIST TENDENCIES IN THE NORTHEAST HAD "DIED DOWN". IN DIRECT REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER THERE WAS ANY C.I.A. ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHEAST, NEHRU SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OR INDICATION OF ANY C.I.A. ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHEAST DURING HIS TENURE AS GOVERNOR, I.E., FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

2. BESIDES THE FACT THAT ANYTHING NEHRU SAYS IN THIS REGARD IS IMPORTANT, WE PLACE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ON STATEMENT AS HE MOVED DIRECTLY FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH ME AND POLITICAL OFFICER BURLEIGH TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEW (SEE SEPARATE MEMCON), NEHRU RECOGNIZED BURLEIGH FROM THEIR SEPT. 1972 MEETING IN SHILLONG AND SAID, "SO YOU'RE THE YOUNG MAN CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE IN ASSAM. I READ ABOUT IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS; I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND THE POWERFUL CIA AGENT I READ ABOUT". (THIS ALL IN A JOCULAR TONE WITH A TWINKLY IN THE EYE.) I INTERJECTED THAT THE USG HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE ATTACK RE CIA SUBVERSION OVER THE PAST YEAR AND I SAID EM-PHATICALLY THAT WHILE WE REMAINED INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTHEAST WE CERTAINLY HAVE NOT INTERVENED IN INTERNAL MATTERS AND WOULD NOT. I SAID I NONETHELESS THOUGHT THESE ALLEGATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE. NEHRU APPEARED TO AGREE THAT THEY WOULD.

3. IN CHANCE MEETING SEPT. 8, BURLEIGH HAD DINNER WITH ADITYA NEHRU, B.K.'S YOUNGEST (IN HIS 30'S) SON. ADITYA HAD BEEN ON HOLIDAY IN SHILLONG WITH HIS PARENTS AND HAD BEEN WITH HIS FATHER ON LATTER'S FAREWELL CALLS IN EACH OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATES. HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE 'MASS SURRENDER' IN NAGALAND IN AUGUST (CALCUTTA 1582). WHEN ASKED ABOUT OUTSIDE SUBVERSION IN THE NORTHEAST HE STATED (AS DID HIS FATHER AT PRESS CONFERENCE) THAT BOTH PAKISTAN AND CHINA HAD BEEN ACTIVELY TRAINING (NOTE HOWEVER THAT B.K. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION DESCRIBED CHINESE ACTIVITY IN EFFECT AS THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO KEEP THEIR TIES WITH REMAINING INSURGENTS AND EQUIPPING BOTH NAGAS AND MIZOS. ASKED ABOUT THE USG ROLE, ADITYA SAID HIS FATHER BECAME FURIOUS EACH TIME ANOTHER STORY WAS RELEASED BY THE HOME MINISTRY IN DELHI WITH

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A SHILLONG DATELINE ALLEGING USG SUBVERSION. ADITYA STATED THAT UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME, K.C. PANT CLAIMED INABILITY TO STOP THE STORIES WHICH, HE SAID, EMANATED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT.

PICKERING

UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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